HKTA NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING PROGRESS AND LOOKING AHEAD

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear members,

As we step boldly into 2026, it is a great pleasure to share with our members the remarkable progress, new initiatives, and collective growth HKTA made in the year of 2025. Each milestone we have reached is a testament to the dedication and passion of our vibrant community. Your unwavering support has been the driving force behind our journey, and together, we are shaping a future full of promise as we are celebrating our 35th anniversary this year.

Looking ahead, HKTA remains steadfast in championing the trust industry - elevating benchmarks in professionalism, best practice, and industry excellence. With your continued engagement, we will build an even brighter tomorrow, inspiring confidence and trust across our sector.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Wishing you a joyful, prosperous, and inspiring 2026!

Ka Shi Lau
Chairman
Hong Kong Trustees' Association

2025 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

RECOGNITION AS A CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL TRAINING (CPT) INSTITUTION

On 15 May 2025, the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) officially recognised HKTA as a provider of Continuous Professional Training (CPT). This milestone underscores our commitment to advancing professional standards in the trust and fiduciary sector. An independent subcommittee now oversees the quality assurance of all SFC-accredited CPT training courses.

LAUNCH OF THE 4TH HONG KONG TRUST INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT 2025

In collaboration with KPMG, we released the 4th Trust Industry Report in March 2025. The launch event, officiated by Under Secretary Joseph Chan and attended by senior officials from HKMA, SFC, MPFA, FSDC, CR, InvestHK, and HKIFA, also celebrated the 25th anniversary of the MPF system.

Access to the 4th Trust Industry Report

- English version - click here
- Traditional Chinese version - click here
- Simplified Chinese version - click here

TTC COURSE AND CTP BROCHURE

A new CTP brochure, launched on 1 September 2025, details the TTC course and CTP requirements. Testimonials from graduates and CTP holders were featured on our social media. The Education Subcommittee strategically engaged with target organisations to highlight the value of the TTC programme.

2025 TTC Enrolment Figures

Enrolment no.	Part A	Part B
Full course	65	39
Standalone units	7	6
Examinations undertaken by TTC students	77	51

Total TTC course completion certificates awarded: 19

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH AND MEMBER BENEFITS

In 2025, we welcomed 6 new corporate members, 16 individual members, and 9 new CTPs. Our new brochure, launched in September, outlines our services and member benefits. Guided by a member survey, the Association's future direction has been refined to ensure that our advocacy and events remain relevant and impactful.

A successful networking event was held on 20 November 2025. Members enjoyed special discounts for events organised by industry peers with HKTA being a supporting organisation.

SEMINARS AND EVENTS

This year, HKTA organised 12 seminars, including 4 complimentary events, covering a wide range of topics:

- Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act / Common Reporting Standard
- Utilising Offshore Trusts for Estate Planning, Family Governance, and Risk Management
- Launch Event of HKTA & KPMG 4th Hong Kong Trust Industry Spotlight 2025
- Fiduciary Duty and Investment in the Context of Climate Change
- Navigating the Future: The Rise of Digital Assets in Financial Landscape
- Custody/Fiduciary, Control & Compliance: Hong Kong OFC vs Cayman SPC Unpacked
- Family Trusts and International Investments: Opportunities, Risks, and Realities
- How Trusts Help in Family Offices
- Navigating Stablecoins and Trust
- ETFs in Hong Kong – Refresher and Recent Developments
- Navigating the Legal Maze: Regulatory Updates for Fund Trustees
- Was it Panglossian or Painful? A Year After the US and UK Elections

COLLABORATION WITH REGULATORS AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

InvestHK

Our Family Office Subcommittee engaged in policy discussions with InvestHK, presenting recommendations to support family office development in Hong Kong, especially regarding the use of trusts. Submissions were made on philanthropy, bank account opening, visas, and IRD practices addressed challenges faced by the industry.

Asia Family Office Foundation

A joint event on “How Trusts Can Help in Family Offices” was organised on 10 September 2025.

BRANDING & EXPOSURE

Our website and social media platforms were updated regularly, and an Instagram account was launched. Testimonials were shared to further strengthen our brand.

ADVOCACY AND REGULATORY SUBMISSIONS

HKTA actively represented fund and pension trustees and sponsors as well as private trust/ family office, consolidated feedback and provided submissions to the government and regulatory consultations on topics including:

- Revisions to Code on MPF Investment Funds
- Revisions to Relevant MPF Guidelines (credit rating agencies)
- FSTB's consultation on Potential Tax Treaty Partners for Hong Kong
- SFC's consultation on registrar fee limits under uncertificated securities market regime
- HKICPA's consultation on Public Interest Entities (PIE)
- MPFA's consultation on Paper on Full Portability
- 2025 CE Policy Address Consultation
- HKICPA's invitation to comment on ESG Assurance Reporting
- Amendments to the SFC Code on MPF Products and the Code on Pooled Retirement Fund (PRF)
- RA13 – Revised Business and Risk Management Questionnaire (BRMQ)
- RA13 – Securities and Futures (Licensing and Registration) (Information) Rules
- SFC's soft consultation on VA dealing and VA custodian
- HKICPA's invitation to comment on IESBA Consultation Paper: Collective Investment Vehicles and Pension Fund

We also participated in regular meetings on the eMPF platform project for the past few years and were also invited by the HKMA/HKIMR to a roundtable for their publication on "Long-Term Investing".

CHINA DEVELOPMENT

The China Development Sub-Committee met to discuss key issues impacting the mainland China trust and wealth management sectors, including:

- New PRC Ultimate Beneficial Ownership Reporting Rules
- New PRC VAT Law
- Pillar Two – Global Minimum Tax
- Extension of Tax Residency Certificate Rules
- PPLI Policies for PRC Tax Planning
- Classification of Trust Companies in Mainland China
- Tax Crackdown on Undeclared Foreign Income
- Real Estate Trusts
- Tax Service Credit System (TCS)
- Draft VAT Implementation Rules
- VAT on Bonds Issued by the Government and Financial Institutions
- Anti-Money Laundering Case
- Wahaha Trust Dispute Case
- HK's New RWA (Real World Assets) Framework and PRC Implications
- Regulation of Trust Companies in Mainland China
- Revised Tax Incentive for Reinvested Profits
- Registration of Trust Assets in the Name of the Relevant Trust
- Tax Reporting Obligations of Offshore Internet Platforms
- Tax Information Exchange Relating to Foreign Real Estate Ownership

SCHOLARSHIP

The Hong Kong Trustees' Association Prize in Equity and Trusts was awarded to an outstanding student, Mr. Liew Jia Jun, from the Faculty of Law at The University of Hong Kong for his achievements in the course 'Equity and Trusts I & II'.

Beginning in the academic year 2025/26, we will also present the Hong Kong Trustees' Association Prize to student at The Chinese University of Hong Kong who attains the highest overall mark in the postgraduate course 'Principles of Equity and Trusts'.

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATE

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the Association in 2026, we are excited to announce a series of celebratory initiatives, including a Conference and Cocktail Reception on 3 June 2026. Action points from the recent member survey will be prepared for subcommittees to ensure continued progress. Together, we look forward to commemorating 35 years of excellence and many more years of success.

HONG KONG TRUSTEES' ASSOCIATION

queries@hktrustees.com

+852 3511 6030

7/F, Grand Millennium Plaza, 181 Queen's Road Central, Central

https://www.hktrustees.com/

HKTA.OFFICIAL Hong Kong Trustees' Association

香港信託人公會